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## OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Three weeks have passed since the close of the session of Congress, whose crowning act was the passage of a law, in violation not only of existing Treaties, but of our own Constitution and form of Government. Time sufficient has almost elapsed for us to hear of the manner of the reception of the news of this act by the people and Government of Mexico. From Texas we have already heard, that, so far from being gratefully welcomed in that country, the first news of the passage in one branch of Congress of the Annexing Resolution was greeted with indignation and contemptuous reproaches. It remains for us to learn, whether, with this probability of failure in our designs upon Texas, we are not actually at war with Mexico; having, upon principles of public law, laid down by all writers on the subject, and repeatedly affirmed by our own Government, incurred all the responsibility of such a state of things.

Of the immediate consequences of the passage of the Joint Resolution of Congress "for the annexation of Texas to the United States," there are various opinions. The Resolution may or may not be deemed by the Government of Mexico to be an act of annexation. It may perhaps be considered as only a stronger expression than this Government has heretofore made of a purpose to annex; which perhaps is the true light in which to regard it. In this view of it, however offensive to the rights of Mexico, as she understands them, the Resolution may not be considered as an act of war, but as an intended wrong, yet not consummated, and which, in fact, if the tone of the Texan press is to be taken as a forecast of that of the Government, never will be consummated. Under that construction, or restrained by other motives, Mexico may, and it is hoped will, have refrained from instantaneous reprisals.

On this point, however, there are, among the best informed men, different opinions. We have placed on the fourth page two articles from high sources of intelligence, coming to directly opposite conclusions; both of which articles are well worthy of most attentive perusal by our readers.

So long as the Senate remained in session, and there was a possibility of any further action of that body upon the subject of our relations with Mexico, we abstained from remark upon the extraordinary position in which Congress, after passing the act of annexation—equivalent, as our own Government upon a former occasion expressly maintained, to a declaration of war—adjourned, without making or attempting to make, the slightest provision, even contingently, for the national defence. The Senate having adjourned without any further action on this subject, we desire to call the serious attention of the public to the neglect by Congress of its obvious duty, the consequences of which, though now matter of speculation merely, may be of the most disastrous character.

Whilst turning this matter over in our mind some days ago, happening to take up the Richmond Whig of the 11th instant, we were smitten with surprise at the remarkable coincidence of the views of a writer in that paper on this subject with our own. We refer to the following passage, which compresses into a few sentences a volume of practical instruction on this subject:

"Grant that the rivalry, the resentment, the policy of Great Britain, might all be with prudence put out of view; let it, if you will, have been all an infamous pretence that she meant us any thing but what was most friendly, and that she has, indeed, an unbounded complaisance towards us; still Mexico is left—not alone, since she will have the warm sympathy of all nations; not unaided, since their citizens will flock to her banner on land and at sea; not uncouraged, since our own total omission of precaution against her will leave her the power to inflict a terrible blow upon our myriads of helpless merchantmen before we can retort upon her. I see not how we can injure her much; while upon our trade she can let slip the havoc of privateers by the thousand! What has been done to guard against such a mischief by sea? Nothing but demagogic efforts to cheapen our navy. And what to retort any such ravage by land? Nothing but to attempt reductions of our poor little army, the mere nucleus of a public force. To Texas, the very object of seizure, not a company of United States infantry has been ordered. Not a dollar is at the President's disposal for any hostile contingency; not a step left for defence against any sudden movement is left to the army in power! It would seem that the authors of what has been done were determined that they would not only shock the world by their violence of iniquity, but astonish it by their utter contempt of all precedents."

In regard to the Texas project, throughout its whole progress, from its birth to its present maturity, our readers will bear us witness, we have not failed to warn them of the dangerous pass into which its authors and advocates were forcing our country. Five or six weeks ago, apprehending the catastrophe which has since occurred, we took the freedom to say that a step giving such just cause of war—a step against which war was already declared in advance—a step so likely to involve us with others besides Mexico, could not, without a public impression little short of madness, be taken, unless accompanied with something of military and naval preparation. We insisted that, if "annexation" were to become the national policy, our marine should be at once put in a condition of general efficiency for active service, and that an adequate increase of our military force should be forthwith provided for.

We need not say that such an indispensable act of precaution has been scorned. The self-styled Democracy has slighted as much our own safety as the rights of others. It has chosen, in defiance of every rational calculation, to hold that whatever it likes may be committed with the same impunity abroad as at home. Though urging, all the while, that we were encompassed around with the formidable plans of a great rival nation, bent on our destruction, and really the cause and the principal of this quarrel

about Texas, they are at once relieved of all their fears the moment they have done the act fittest to excite them. Our naval force, feebly manned and far scattered, is in no sort of condition to meet any sudden hostility, such as we have wantonly provoked. Our merchantmen, covering all the seas, offer an unresisting prey to even the paltriest cruisers. Our army is shrunk to numbers even much less than those with which it encountered the Seminole. Did ever men, we solemnly ask, rush into measures of such aggression under such possibilities of fierce and wide hostilities, with such an incredible, such a criminal scorn of all provision against what they were provoking?

Already our readers will have seen that the Representative of Mexico has promptly, upon the day after the official publication of the Act of Annexation, taken the step long announced to us, and which it has pleased the majority in Congress to believe impossible. He has ended his mission, and is on the point of departure from the country.

Should Mexico at once (as is altogether possible) issue her commissions, and, lending her flag to the privateers of all countries, let them loose upon our trade, what is to be done? Is the President of the United States to make war of his own authority? Can he do so with no appropriations except those for a state of peace?

We must obviously, then, stand as if with our hands tied and a man beating us in the face, until Congress can be assembled. This is a step which the President will not take until he hears of Mexican captures. Even then—many of the States having yet their elections to make—an interval of more than two months of helpless inaction must be submitted to. Such is the position in which the warlike Democratic House of Representatives, with whom the Texas Resolution originated, has left the land!

Is there any example of a like case? There is one of a case somewhat like, but of very different measures. It is that of the act passed by Congress at the close of the Session of Congress in the spring of 1839, when the Governor of the State of Maine was levying forces and marching them to the Northeastern frontier, and there was some reason to apprehend an actual collision with the British forces on the other side of the line, as the consequence of the then existing irritation on both sides of it. Under those circumstances, Congress, with a foresight and precaution which contrast admirably with the reckless and improvident course of the Congress which has just broken up, passed the following act:

AN ACT giving to the President of the United States additional powers for the defence of the United States, in certain cases, against invasion, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be and he is hereby authorized to resist any attempt on the part of Great Britain to enforce, by arms, her claim to exclusive jurisdiction over that part of the State of Maine which is in dispute between the United States and Great Britain; and, for that purpose, to employ the naval and military forces of the United States and such portions of the militia as he may deem it advisable to call into service.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That the militia, when called into the service of the United States by virtue of this act, or of the act entitled "An act to provide for calling forth the militia to execute the laws of the Union, suppress insurrections, repel invasion, and to repeal the act now in force for those purposes," may, if in the opinion of the President of the United States the public interest require it, be compelled to serve for a term not exceeding six months after the arrival at their place of rendezvous, in any one year, unless sooner discharged.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That in the event of actual invasion of the Territory of the United States by any foreign Power, or of imminent danger of such invasion discovered, in his opinion, to exist before Congress can be convened to act upon the subject, the President be and he is hereby authorized, if he deem the same expedient, to accept the services of any number of volunteers not exceeding fifty thousand, in the manner provided for in an act entitled "An act authorizing the President of the United States to accept the services of volunteers, and to raise an additional regiment of dragoons or mounted riflemen," approved May 23, 1836.

Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That in the event of either of the contingencies provided for in this act, the President of the United States shall be authorized to complete the public armed vessels now authorized by law, and to equip, man, and employ, in actual service, all the naval force of the United States; and to build, purchase, or charter, arm, equip, and man such vessels and steamboats on the Northern lakes and rivers whose waters communicate with the United States and Great Britain, as he shall deem necessary to protect the United States from invasion from that quarter.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That the sum of ten millions of dollars be and it is hereby appropriated and placed at his disposal for the purpose of executing the provisions of this act; to provide for which the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to borrow money on the credit of the United States, and to cause to be issued certificates of stock, signed by the Register of the Treasury, for the sum to be borrowed, or any part thereof; and the same to be sold upon the best terms that may be offered after public notice for proposal for the same.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That the sum of eighteen thousand dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for outfit and salary of a special minister to Great Britain; Provided, That no engagement or contract shall be entered into which shall preclude the United States from reimbursing any sum or sums so borrowed after the expiration of five years from the first of January next; and that the rate of interest shall not exceed five per cent., payable semi-annually.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That in the event of either of the contingencies provided for in the first and third sections of this act, the President of the United States shall be authorized to apply a part not exceeding \$1,000,000 of the appropriation made in this act to repairing or arming fortifications along the seaboard and frontier.

Sec. 8. And be it further enacted, That whenever militia or volunteers are called into the service of the United States, they shall have the organization of the Army of the United States, and shall receive the same pay and allowances.

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That the several provisions of this act shall be in force until the end of sixty days after the meeting of the first session of the next Congress, and no longer.

JAMES K. POLK,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.  
WM. R. KING,  
President of the Senate pro tempore.  
Approved, March 3, 1839.

M. VAN BUREN.

When this act passed, be it remembered, there was an entirely good understanding between the Governments of the United States and of Great Britain.

There had been no threat, no hostile feeling even, between the two nations. Yet, as Congress was adjourning, and a serious difficulty possible, this precautionary measure was justly held a matter of indispensable duty. It was accordingly adopted by the almost unanimous vote of Congress. In the House it passed by yeas 201, nays 6; in the Senate, nem. con.

Here, then, is a precedent which, after having themselves placed the United States in imminent hazard of war, if they have not made it inevitable, it would well have become the Representatives of the People to have followed. Had they done so, they would have escaped the reproach, which they now attach to them, of having applied the match to a train of combustibles, and left the country utterly unprotected, unless by the stout hearts of its people, against the explosion which they had every reason to apprehend might follow.

After the foregoing was in type our attention was called to an article on this subject in the *Courrier des Etats Unis*, (at New York), which had before escaped our notice. Considering the relations of the Editor of that paper, which bring him in connexion with the best authorities in regard to the acts and motives of foreign Powers, we incline to attach more importance to his remarks upon this question than to those of journals who have not the same advantages. We therefore invite the most serious attention of our readers to the following extract from the remarks of the Editor of the *Courrier*:

"We cannot blame the American Government for this confidence, which it persists in maintaining in regard to Mexico, and for its almost obstinate hopes in the preservation of peace. This confidence and these hopes may not be deceived; they are founded on certain national probabilities, which we were the first to expose and admit. But it is nevertheless a great fault in politicians to foresee only the good and not the evil chances. These last are numerous; they are even more numerous than the chances of peace, if we take into consideration not merely the declaration of Mexico, but the national character of the people, of whom vanity and obstinacy are distinctive qualities. Among possible events, and which Gen. ALMONTE himself regards as probable, there is one of which no person has thought, and to which we would call the public attention. It may be that at the moment when the American Government is reposing in its somewhat blind confidence when it looks upon war, at any rate, as an event still distant and subject to protocols and preclusive negotiations, we say that at this moment war may actually exist, and that the next arrival from Vera Cruz or Tampico may bring us intelligence that an embargo has been laid upon all American vessels now at Mexican ports, and that all American residents have been made prisoners of war and their property confiscated. The possibility, and in some measure the probability of these facts, logically results from an opinion expressed by Gen. ALMONTE, and which has been reported to us by one of those to whom he uttered it. According to the Mexican Minister, an illusion prevails in this country as to the immediate effect of the vote in Congress upon, and the sanction by the President of the annexation bill, in respect to the international relations of the two countries. According to him, and according to his Government, whose declarations have been explicit on this head, the sanction of the bill of annexation is equivalent to an immediate declaration of war, and will be regarded as such by the Government of Mexico. We are at war with Texas, says Gen. ALMONTE; we regard it as one of our revolted provinces; you unite yourselves with it, and take it under your protection; you are then at war with us by the simple fact of your declaration, and we may, we ought to treat you immediately as enemies, without the necessity of any previous notice: for the initiative has come from you, and deeds only must respond to an enemy who has declared war. As a consequence of this manner of viewing it, which is strictly rational, it cannot be denied. It may be then, we repeat it, that at this very moment the Mexicans have already responded to the vote on the annexation by confiscation and essential hostilities."

"The American press has not foreseen this serious consequence, because there is within its bosom a party that does not regard the question of annexation as yet settled. All that the bill has effected, says these journals, is to approve the principle of annexation, and to authorize the President to open negotiations for the purpose of realizing it. This explanation is not at bottom, so far as the United States are concerned, but it is true as it regards Mexico. As to the latter, we are to consider the effect of the diplomatic act which it signified that it would regard the vote on the bill of annexation as a declaration of war; and it had the right to give this construction to that act, because, between two countries, a parliamentary manifestation, purely moral, may be equivalent to actual hostility. The intention, in this case, may be taken for the fact; and of whom you show yourself to be the enemy has a right to choose his own convenience, and not yours, to attack you. Whether Texas be annexed or not is no longer the question; it is altogether in the intention which you have officially and publicly manifested to seize upon it. We believe, therefore, that if Mexico has immediately made seizure of American property in its roads and territory, it has done no more than put into practice a rigorous principle of the law of nations."

A HENRI.—A New York paper states that in Delaware county, OWEN STEELE and CHARLES PARKER, two Sheriff's officers, were suddenly set upon by "the Indians," near Fish Lake, (a remarkable seat of water, by the way, nearly on the summit of one of the Katybrag mountains.) The road crossing the outlet of the lake plunges at once, after passing the clearings, into a deep and wooded defile, the very ground where real Indians would have lurked, and which was left unguarded by the few mock heroes of the blanket. Steele and Parker, it seems, actually succeeded in keeping their assailants at bay, with a couple of Colt's pistols, until they had gained this point of view, when, putting spurs to their horses, they were soon out of the reach of the rifle, and gained the inn at the little village of Andes. The country around swarmed with anti-renters, and they dared not advance further towards Delhi, still fifteen miles off. Scarcely had a messenger been detached thither for succor when the house was surrounded with the infuriated "Indians." These last, however, pausing before they made their attack, organized themselves into a regular public meeting, and passed a formal resolution to seize the two beleaguered men and execute them on the spot!

They proceeded to enforce their determination, and there was no man to interfere. In this exigency Mrs. HENTY, the spirited and handsome wife of the innkeeper, seized a large carving-knife from the larder, rushed up to the attic whither the intended victims had retired, planted herself on the narrow stairway, and swore that no "Indian" should pass up over her corpse; and thus armed, and thus determined, stood this heroic woman for six hours, leaving the whole force of Indian miscreants. The expected succor at last came from Delhi. The anti-renters retired, and Mrs. Hentz was relieved from the post she had so nobly maintained.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE AT CARLEISLE, PA.—A letter from the Postmaster at Carlisle, dated last Monday morning, says:

"Our Town Hall, containing all our engines and fire apparatus, was fired by an incendiary last night. Before the citizens collected the Hall was enveloped in flames, and the engines and hose destroyed. In a few minutes the Court-House took fire, and is now a mass of ruins. The records were saved."

"As the wind was high, the fire at one time threatened to sweep all the southeast portion of the town. Several buildings were on fire, but were saved without damage."

## "ANNEXATION" IN TEXAS.

It appears to be by no means certain, judging from the complexion of the Texas newspapers, that the "annexation" which our Congress has transcended its constitutional authority by attempting to legalize, will, after all, be consummated on the terms proposed. News from Texas has been received at New Orleans to the 8th instant, at which time information had reached Texas of the passage of the Joint Resolution by our House of Representatives; which elicited the subjoined commentaries from papers understood to be exponents of the views of the Government of that country. We copy them just as we find them. Our readers must receive a different impression from the perusal of them than we do, if they can imagine any form of annexation whatever, that the United States could possibly agree to, which would be acceptable to, or accepted by, the authors of these commentaries.

FROM THE GALVESTON CITIZEN.

The article which we copy to-day from the National Register affords gratifying evidence of a return, on the part of the friends of annexation in this country, to a proper sense of self-respect, and an understanding of the position which Texas may and ought to assume in relation to the question. Our friends beyond the Sabine have lost sight of the homely adage that it takes two to make a bargain; and only studied how to shape measures so as to make the "reciprocity all on one side," until at length their utter selfishness and disregard of the respect due to Texas as an independent nation, which has thus far maintained her nationality, rights, and liberties, begins to produce the natural fruits of disappointment and aversion in those of our citizens who had looked to that quarter for a magnanimous and disinterested regard for our welfare and happiness. The helpless and pining beggar may without hesitation accept the most humiliating conditions for, and agree to become the mental of him from whom he receives the means of averting famine and death; but the sturdy yeoman, whose honest industry and strong arm afford him all the means of subsistence and protection requisite to his condition and habits in life, will sell them the banquet and the association if invited into the society of the more wealthy and presuming, when his acceptance is to be coupled with acknowledgments of vassalage and inferiority.

FROM THE (TEXAS) NATIONAL REGISTER.

THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION.—The Congress of the United States "doh consent" that the territory included within and rightfully belonging to the Republic of Texas may be erected into a new State, to be called the State of Texas, with a republican form of government, to be adopted by the people of said Republic, by deputies in Convention, assembled with the consent of the existing Government, in order that the same may be admitted as one of the States of the Union." Such is the language of the first section of the resolution which has passed the lower House of the American Congress. What is its import?

The answer is, that we must lay aside our national name, abandon our present Constitution, erect ourselves into a new State, adopt the appellation of "State of Texas," organize a new Government of a republican form, by means of deputies assembled in convention, and, after we have passed through this prescribed revolution; after we have thus voluntarily deprived ourselves of every feature and lineament of that nationality under which our independence has been recognized by foreign Powers; after we have, in fact, annihilated our identity as a community, and repudiated even our name, so that we can neither know nor be known in the rank and seat among the nations which we have hitherto occupied, at least without dishonor, and with the consent of the old world and the new; after all these sacrifices and all this degradation, what shall we have gained? what shall we have accomplished? Annexation to the American Union? No; not even the promise of it.

Under such circumstances, all our connections with foreign nations would be dissolved, our relations toward them changed; all advantages accruing from past negotiations cease; for no one can pretend that the great European Powers will continue their amicable intercourse with our Government as the Republic of Texas, under the name of the "State of Texas," habitually in the garb of a suppliant for admission into the family of American States, the very cut and fashion of which have been prescribed by their Congress. Why, in such a guise we should not even know ourselves! In such a state of national abeyance and limbo, we could neither assert a separate independence for ourselves, nor claim any species of alliance or connexion ever known by any name "given under heaven or among men," with any other Government. In such an attitude of mortifying and humiliating indifference, we may well be disavowed, as a distinct nation.

"By all our kind and kin, when they  
Compare our day and yesterday."

And, having assumed this equivocal posture, by the consent of the American Congress, "in order," as the resolution declares, "that we may be admitted as one of the States of the Union," then we are bound unto them, but they are not bound unto us. We are yet again, and for the fourth time, to knock at their door for admission, "on or before the first day of January next," with our new Constitution in our hand, when Congress will take their final action (for or against, as the case may be) on the subject of our application.

This is the substance and extent of their "guaranties," paraded, as the expression is in the resolution, under the imposing grammatical form of the plural number! Have we any pledge that we shall then be admitted? No; they only promise that they will once more consider the proposition, and take what they are pleased to denominate their "final action" upon it. And, judging from the language they now hold, we have nothing more nor less to expect than that they will then "spurn" us as before—for they can do so without violating any pledge.

But, if we adopt the course indicated by the resolution, we do so under the formal sanction and color of their express consent. This would be a tacit admission on the part of the Government and people of Texas of the authority of that consent, and would imply at least that we could not lawfully act in the prescribed mode without it. No doubt we should be forced to borrow largely from the efficacy of that same consent, to carry us through the conspicuous part assigned to us in the ridiculous farce thus prepared for exhibition.

If the people of Texas choose to revolutionize their Government, and institute some new and different republican organization, they may do so without the leave of a foreign Government "first had and obtained." But the United States have acknowledged our title to be recognised as an independent nation, both de facto and de jure. Should we adopt the course designated by their resolutions, we at once lose the benefit of that acknowledgment. We pass into a state of imbecility and hopeless dependence upon that Power. To be annexed! Certainly, never—until their aspiring partisans shall cease to need the material we now furnish them for the manufacture of political capital. Our relations with other Governments disclosed, and our own nationality renounced, the United States may consent to hold—as they shall have consented to place us—in a state of penultimate, but unaccomplished, annexation.

But even this consent of the American Congress, meager and valueless as it is to the people of Texas, but for which we are required to give to the United States a lien upon our country's sovereignty—this worthless consent, as it be degraded to Texas, is eked out to her by a miser's usury, and is shackled with what lawyer's call "conditions precedent." Passing by the required sacrifice of our right to adjust the boundaries of our territory, the consent of that Congress even once more to entertain the Texas question is coupled with the cold assurance

that if we ever admitted into the Union at all, we must cede to the United States "all our mines, minerals, salt lakes, and springs; also, all our public edifices, fortifications, barracks, ports and harbors, navy and navy yards, docks, magazines, arms, armaments, and all other property and means pertaining to the public defence." We must also yield up our revenue and our capacity to raise one; which single item, under the financial regulations of our fostering step-mother, would bring into her Treasury at least three hundred thousand dollars per annum, for which we have her kind permission to retain our public debt, and keep our public domain; subject, however, to the payment of the debt, and circumscribed within such limits as she may hereafter be pleased to assign to her territory, in the exercise of her characteristic and far-reaching diplomacy, which once reached even to the western banks of the Sabine! We must, however, truckle to her pet abolitionists by obligating ourselves to prohibit slavery north of the parallel of thirty-six degrees thirty minutes, known as the Missouri compromise line.

We have always been a warm and hearty advocate for the cause of annexation; but never did we dream that the approval of the people of Texas would be required to a proposition so absurd, so degrading, as the one propounded by this resolution. Our space does not now admit of further detail. Suffice it that we contrast our present elevated position as a people—secure in the respect and amity of the great enlightened nations of the earth; secure in the enjoyment of peace, and in the speedy acquisition of acknowledged independence; secure in the wealth which the commerce of Europe is about to pour into our lap, and in the increasing value of our lands, arising from extended occupation and the investment of foreign capital; secure of becoming "the most favored" by those powerful and wealthy sovereigns whom both interest and policy impel to cherish our prosperity and growth, that their markets may be supplied with our staples; and secure that the increase of commerce will speedily render no less considerable than desirable a great diminution of our present tariff—with the alternative presented by this resolution, of Texas, divested of all these high privileges and advantages, shorn of her attributes as a nation, crippled in her commerce, in her property, in her domestic resources, depressed in the burdens of public debt and direct taxation, her land in consequence depreciated in value; and, in the event of final annexation upon the proposed basis, our public domain not only razed and mortgaged to secure the payment of our debt, but even encumbered of its mineral wealth to swell the federal treasury.

This is, indeed, but a dim and totally inadequate view of the actual pit and grave of insignificance and infamy into which the House of Representatives of the American Congress have proposed to plunge this nation.

"Since he, miscalcled the morning star,  
No man, nor fiend, hath fall'n so far."

We perceive that some of our contemporaries are under the impression that the addition made by the Senate to the resolution "for the annexation of Texas" (by including in it Mr. BENTON's proposition as an alternative) will make the proposed measure more palatable to the Government of Texas than it would have been in its original form. This impression, we presume, is an entirely erroneous one. We have before us the Texas official gazette (the "Register") of March 1—some days prior to the time the news of the action of the House of Representatives on Mr. BROWN's resolution reached Texas—which gazette contains a column or two of bitter commentary upon Mr. BENTON's proposition, elicited by its first presentation in the Senate. To give our readers a taste of the quality of this commentary, and to show how little likely Mr. BENTON's amendment is to make the resolution more acceptable in that quarter, we make the following extract from that commentary:

FROM "THE TEXAS NATIONAL REGISTER" OF MARCH 1.

MR. BENTON'S NEW BILL.—This bill provides that a State, to be formed out of the present Republic of Texas, with suitable extent and boundaries, shall be admitted into the Union as soon as the terms and conditions of such admission, and the cession of the remaining Texan territory to the United States, shall be agreed upon by the two Governments. This agreement is to be effected, if at all, by means of new "missions, negotiations, etc.," and its terms are to be settled by treaty to be referred to the Senate, or by articles to be submitted to the two Houses of Congress, as the President may direct.

This proposition bears the impress of that extraordinary ingenuity and artful policy characteristic of the genius of the great statesman who originated it. Opposition to immediate annexation upon any terms; and uncompromising hostility forever to the annexation of Texas with her claimed and legitimate boundaries, is his avowed doctrine. With mercenary precision this bill is regularly labelled "ANNEXATION," in characters sufficiently conspicuous to be read by all Texas. This delightful password is intended to secure its acceptance by this nation! It is a word of cabalistic power; and in the delirium of joy produced by its golden syllables, the people are to hail with enthusiastic applause the delusive shadow thus exhibited to the eye, and approve the measure without caution or examination. The American politicians but act consistently and naturally when they count upon such talismanic effects to be produced by the use of that magic word. They judge us by the spirit, evinced by our renewed applications and the meanness with which we have submitted to their repeated rejections. They judge us by the success which followed from its adoption as the party rallying-cry in their late Presidential canvass. It has secured the election of Mr. Polk—operating with lunar efficacy upon the tide of popular feeling; and if its pervading virtues can be preserved by keeping the measure in a proper state of suspense and agitation, it may, in like manner, secure the election of Mr. Benton as his successor! That word has had power to breathe into this Presidential statue the breath of official life. Its effects, both in Texas and the United States, have been alacritous and tremendous. Its value, therefore, is inestimable to the aspirant who can appropriate and wield it.

To accomplish these purposes, nothing could be more happily conceived and adapted than this bill; and, notwithstanding its specious aspect, we must look somewhat deeper into its contents. Alas! its beauty is but skin deep—nulla fides in fronte!

We ask for annexation: it promises us "missions, negotiations, etc." To determine the purport of this "etc.," we must doubtless have recourse to the authority of Lord Coke, who, in treating upon a similar abbreviation in "Littleton's Tenures," says: "It always meaneth some matter of excellent learning, which ought in novise to be pretermitted by the student."

We repeat our humble request for annexation: the bill declares, in reply—when a State of suitable extent and boundaries shall be formed out of your Republic; when, in the process of negotiations, the terms and conditions of its admission shall be settled; when your remaining territory, after carving out this State, shall be ceded to the United States; when, after years of protracted diplomatic correspondence, costing each Government probably not less than one hundred thousand dollars, (as estimated in the bill,) the preliminaries of admission and cession shall be finally at length concluded; then—

Of course we shall be annexed.

No; not quite yet. Wait awhile! It is not the first time your over-hasty anticipations have been disappointed. THESE, these preliminaries must be reduced to writing, either in the form of a "treaty" or of "articles," as the President may direct. If the former, it must be ratified by two-thirds of the Federal Senate, or it will be a mere nullity! If the latter, these "articles" must be passed into an act by both

Houses of the American Congress, or they will be of no effect! Then, in the event of the ratification of such treaty, or of the final passage of such an act, as the case may be—and not until then—will your annexation be consummated!

Curiosity might prompt us to inquire, what President is to give the direction contemplated by the bill?—what Senate is to ratify the supposed treaty?—what Congress is to act upon the supposed articles? The answer is, the President, Senate, and Congress of the United States. The bill correctly enough implies that, after this Republic shall have run the gauntlet prescribed for her by its provisions, she will be without a President, without a Congress, and without a Government—or that they will exist in name alone! Prostrate at the foot of the altar and subvert to the power of the United States, she would be without the capacity to resist or oppose any conditions or exactions which the latter might see fit to impose or demand.

This bill is evidently based upon the idea that Texas, with plumed ardor, crying, begging, and shrieking for annexation, would, like Ixion, embrace a cloud, if it but bore that name. And a cloud is consequently presented to us by this measure, replete with future ills.

Are the people of Texas satisfied with the position in which this bill would place them? It concedes nothing of value—it settles nothing but, on the contrary, unsettles every thing—even our western boundary; which has been, in effect, recognized and acknowledged to be the Rio Grande by the Mexican authorities themselves, as emphatically manifested in the "Orders of Gen. Woll," carrying out the provisions of Santa Anna's decree of June 17 last. These important but savage orders, making it treason to be found in Texas, and proclaiming death to all, without distinction of age or sex, found within that "Department," as they are pleased to style our Republic, still does that same "Department" the justice to make the "Rio Bravo" its western limit. But this, like a mere pretext to Texas than those intemperate denials to her that boundary; and although it does not threaten her inhabitants with sudden massacre, it does threaten her with a poisoned chalice, filled with ingredients sure to produce slow but inevitable dissolution. It does not propose to deprive her at once of the elements of national life, but inflicts upon the body politic the brief but palsied existence of a feeble paralytic. Better at once to extinguish the nation than to doom it to a state of wasting, lingering decay, thus—

"Thrown when the war of winds is o'er,  
A lonely wreck on fortune's shore,  
Mid sullen calm and silent bay,  
Unseen to drop by dull decay;  
Better to sink beneath the shock,  
Than moulder piecemeal on the rock!"

## RUSSIA.

FROM THE HAMBURG CORRESPONDENT OF DECEMBER 27.

By a law promulgated in 1843 a metallic fund was created as a guaranty for the realization of all the paper money circulating in the Russian Empire. This fund having attained the amount of seventy millions of silver roubles, it was found necessary to construct vaults for the safe keeping of that capital. The proper buildings being ready in the fortress of St. Petersburg, on the 2d of December, an examination of the fund thus created was ordered. The Minister of Finance, the Directors of the Russian Credit System, and a deputation of twenty-four bankers and merchants being present, the Comptroller General of all the expenditures of the Russian Empire opened the proceedings by an appropriate speech, in which, after having explained the object of the meeting, he announced that the sum to be transported to the vaults of the fortress consisted of seventy millions seven hundred thousand silver roubles, (fifty-three millions of dollars;) and as, from the great weight of the metal, it would require some time for its transportation, the Comptroller General informed the deputation of the express wish of the Emperor that two deputies should be in attendance with the proper authorities to superintend the transportation of this money to its place of deposit. After this the Ministers and the deputation proceeded to the Treasury building, where several bags of money were taken out of the heap and counted. In the same manner some of the gold and silver ingots were assayed, the amount was found as stated, and a protocol of the proceedings was signed by all present.

FANNY ELSLER IN THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

A bill being under discussion lately in the House of Representatives of the Bay State, the object of which was to increase the capital of the Boston Museum, at which there are occasionally theatrical performances, a Mr. Fay, who represented the good old town of Southboro', related an incident the scene of which was New York. After remarking that he was a younger man than he is now, he said:

"I had a brother who had travelled away from home, and got as far as New York, where he lived. I went there in search of him, but did not reach the wharf till about 8 o'clock at night. It was too late then for me to look for my brother, and I went to a house and secured a place where I could rest for the night. I then thought I would walk out a little before I retired, and as I was going along the street I came to a place that was all lighted up, so that it was almost as bright as day; and there was a lot of carriages standing in front. I asked what it was. A boy told me that it was a theatre, and that there was a plenty of music. I asked him if there was any thing to pay to go in, and he said he had paid fifty cents for his ticket, but as the performances were about half over (it was near nine o'clock) that I could get a ticket for a quarter of a dollar. So I bought it, and went into the pit. I believe they called it, and looked around. It wasn't long before they said there was to be a dance, and then a young girl came out and danced all over the stage and turned herself every way. When she was whirling round, I am sure her clothes came up to her arms. I was astonished. I never was so astonished in the whole course of my life. I looked round, expecting to see all the ladies with their handkerchiefs up to their faces, but, instead of that, to my utter surprise, they had their negligee glasses up. I thought the girl was in a state of nudity, but I was afterwards informed that she had on drawers."

There was much unbecoming laughter in the House, it is said, during Mr. Fay's affecting narration of his experience of the seductive wickedness of our city, and we really do think that that "brother who had travelled away from home, and got so far as New York," has a great deal to answer for, and being the means of Mr. Fay's leaving the sylvan retreats of Southboro' for the trying temptations of Gotham.—New York Southern.

RICH 1.—The Albany Evening Journal relates a rich scene which occurred in the Legislature there on Wednesday last, when Mr. OAKLEY, one of the Native members from the city of New York, was making a speech on the constitutional amendments, wherein he argued for the necessity of some greater guards to the purity of the ballot box. The Journal says:

"In the course of his remarks he alluded to the practice of canvassing voters, and described a scene which he had witnessed, of sixty men brought into one room in a particular ward for the purpose of voting in that ward, brought from New Jersey and other places."

"Mr. T. R. LEE (Loco of Westchester) rose and inquired of Mr. O. to which party he (Mr. O.) had belonged when he witnessed this scene?"

"Mr. OAKLEY. To the Democratic party."

"There was a burst of laughter all over the House, and Mr. LEE did not pursue his inquiries."

THE INDIAN FIGHT.—The VAN BUREN (Arkansas) Intelligencer of March 4th says: The skirmish which we spoke of last week as having taken place between a portion of the Pawnee Mahas and a party of Creeks, turned out to have been between the Osages and Creeks. The Osage dress resembles the Pawnee in almost every particular, and the Creeks themselves supposed their assailants to have been Pawnee Mahas. The excitement is very great in the Creek nation, and various rumors are afloat